

Application No.: 09/850,975
Amendment Dated: September 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: June 21, 2004

MAT-8130US

Remarks/Arguments:

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7. Applicants have cancelled claims 5 and 11. Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 12-18 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 13-18 are allowed. Applicants further acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 6 and 12 include allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, as Applicants will subsequently explain, it is Applicants' position that the claims to which claims 6 and 12 are dependent are themselves in condition for allowance.

Drawing Objections

Figures 1, 8, 12 and 16 are objected to for reasons set forth at numbered paragraph 2 (page 2) of the Office Action. While Applicants are not in total agreement with the Examiner as to the difference between Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1 and 8 and the prior art as set forth in Figures 12 and 16, Applicants have nonetheless amended these drawings to more clearly differentiate the difference. With respect to Figures 1 and 8, Applicants have amended "Vr" by indicating "designated by a user". This amendment to Figures 1 and 8 is more appropriate than the Examiner's suggestion of "not constant", because of the following statement in the specification:

Screen reference color memory 102 stores screen reference
color Vr designated by a user.

Application No.: 09/850,975
Amendment Dated: September 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: June 21, 2004

MAT-8130US

See page 7, line 27, to page 8, line 1, of the originally filed application. Applicants are including replacement sheets which include Figures 1, 8, 12 and 16. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that they have overcome the objection to the drawings.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to for reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Following the Examiner's guidance, Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome this objection.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moriwake. Based on this Amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse this Section 103 (a) rejection.

Claims 1 and 7 are independent claims; claims 2, 3 and 6 are dependent on claim 1; and claims 8, 9 and 12 are dependent on claim 7.

Turning first to claim 1, it is directed to a video mixing apparatus taking out a foreground object component from a source video signal obtained by shooting an object in front of a monochromatic screen, and fitting the object component into a background video signal. The apparatus defined by claim 1 includes among its features the following:

- a key signal generator,
- a mixing processor,
- a screen signal generator,

- wherein the screen signal generator outputs (i) the source video signal as the screen signal when the source video signal is inside the first oval body, and (ii) a coordinates value as the screen signal when the source video signal is outside the first oval body, where the coordinate is a cross point of the first oval body and a vector starting from the screen reference color toward the source video signal.

It is Applicants' contention that the video mixing apparatus defined by claim 1 is patentably distinguished from the Moriwake Patent at least based on the requirement that the screen signal generator outputs (i) the source video signal as the screen signal when the source video signal is inside the first oval body, and (ii) a coordinates value as the screen signal when the source video signal is outside the first oval body, where the coordinates is a cross point of the first oval body and a vector starting from the screen reference color toward the source video screen (hereinafter generally referred to as the "Screen Signal Generator Outputs Feature") of Applicants' claimed invention. Simply put, the Screen Signal Generator Outputs Feature is neither taught nor suggested in the Moriwake Patent.

The Screen Signal Generator Outputs Feature is essentially the feature taught in Applicants' dependent claim 5 (now cancelled). Applicants note that the Office Action at page 6 sets forth the basis for rejecting claims 5 and 11. But it is Applicants' contention that these grounds set forth at page 6 do not, in fact, relate to the specific functions of the screen signal generator as defined by cancelled claims 5 and 11 but relate instead to cancelled claims 4 and 10. Thus, the Office Action does not address any grounds for the rejection of claim 5 and 11. In addition, there is

Application No.: 09/850,975
Amendment Dated: September 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: June 21, 2004

MAT-8130US

simply no teaching or suggestion of the Screen Signal Generator Outputs Feature of Applicants' claim 1 in the Moriwake Patent.

The Moriwake Patent, in general, relates to a video signal processing device and method, and an image synthesizing device. In the synthesizing operation of Moriwake, a foreground picture and a background picture are displayed in accordance with a key signal by a preview screen 102 as a picture as a result of processing by the key signal and a key parameter setting screen 101 for setting characteristics of the key signal. (See Figures 18 and 20, for example). Characteristics of the key signal are changed on a three-dimensional space by information obtained through the key parameter setting screen 101, and the picture as a result of processing is changed on the preview screen 102. But nowhere in the Moriwake Patent is there any teaching or suggestion of the specific Screen Signal Generator Outputs Feature defined in Applicants' amended claim 1, to which claims 2, 3 and 6 depend. Thus, lacking the Screen Signal Generator Outputs Feature, the Moriwake Patent can neither anticipate nor render obvious claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon.

Independent claim 7 is directed to a method of mixing videos by taking out a foreground object component from a source video signal obtained by shooting an object in front of a monochromatic screen, and fitting the object component into a background video signal. The method defined by claim 1 incorporates the feature of cancelled claim 11. This feature, while in the form of method steps, is similar to the Screen Signal Generator Outputs Feature as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, it is Applicants' position that claim 7 and dependent claims 8, 9 and 12 are likewise patentably distinguished from the Moriwake Patent.

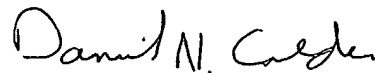
Application No.: 09/850,975
Amendment Dated: September 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: June 21, 2004

MAT-8130US

Based on the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the Section 103(a) rejection based on the Moriwake Patent be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 6-9 and 12 are in condition for allowance, and that claims 13-18 are allowed. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. 27,424
Attorneys for Applicants

DNC/fp

Attachments: Figures 1, 8, 12 and 16 (4 sheets)

Dated: September 17, 2004

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

September 17, 2004



FP_I:\MAT\8130US\AMEND_03.DOC